

Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

#### Minutes of the Tuesday, September 4, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:26 pm on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger, S. Krishnan, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott and visitor Megan Schaaf.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

#### CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7, Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from June 5, 2012 were approved, motioned by Lou Caprioglio and Frank Esposito 2<sup>nd</sup> with all in favor, with one minor typo edit.

#### THANKS TO PAT COLLINGTON

CTEC is very sorry to lose Pat Collington as a Commissioner. Pat has been a constant source of energy and inspiration. Pat won numerous grants to implement environmental projects including the Rocket Composter and water quality programs. She will be sorely missed.

WELCOME to new volunteer Megan Schaaf.

#### Green Team Meeting

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair - 7:25-8:12

Chatham Borough achieved silver certification.

Reviewed Sustainable Jersey proposed Actions. NRI – made progress; has to be approved by Planning Board.

Green challenge 184 signed up. Pledge supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan – K. Abbott to submit model resolution for next Township Committee meeting.

Green Fair, September 22, 2012; 9-2.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Block 130, Lot 26. Lake Road. May 2012. Application to NJDEP for LOI. – CTEC Probably will not comment.

NEW. Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. July 17, 2012. Application to NJDEP for LOI.

PENDING. T MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC, Block: 62, lots: 52 & 54. 7-19-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for temporary wireless communication tower and associated equipment. Area is at the end of Nicholson Drive on the top of the ridge. Conservation easement, which states, "Area within the easement shall not be developed but shall permanently remain open space in a natural state", would have to be violated to allow the construction. The Planning Board approved the subdivision in 1996 with a conservation easement requiring the land to be left in a natural state. The extent of the conservation easement on Block 62, Lot 54, 610 River Road, is recorded on Map #5225 with the Morris County Clerk. The parcel is on the list of conservation easements monitored by the Environmental Commission. The Commission visited the site in the fall of 2007 and found no disturbance. The Board of Adjustment approved the application subject to approval of the violation of the conservation easement by the Township Committee. We have to watch for T- Mobile wanting to install a generator, instead of installing electric lines, especially if they want to use a diesel generator on an alternate site.

PENDING. Eveleth, 340 Lafayette Avenue, B 102.11, L 10.01. 3-14-12. Application to Board of Adjustment for variances to enlarge a house near a stream and wetlands. Suggest the Board of Adjustment require an LOI. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment. Doesn't think Board of Adjustment has made a decision yet. Applicant is applying for an LOI. **S. Carroll motion to send a memo to the DEP with concerns (similar to Bd of Adj. memo) and L. Caprioglio 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.**

PENDING. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, applicant or representatives did not attend. **Memo was sent from CTEC to BOA.**

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

## REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison. Most meetings over the summer cancelled. New application for 697 Fairmount Avenue received a comment from Morris Cty to be cautious approving application. The Township Engineer is reviewing for completeness.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott. T-Mobile made a presentation at a recent township committee meeting. Township Committee does not approve of this site location, height, slopes, drainage issues. Bat habitat is located in that area and cannot be disturbed during nesting time. Complete Streets has submitted for a grant approval.

Open Space Committee report. P.S. Krishnan - Open Space Committee liaison – was not able to attend recent two meetings. Next meeting 9/24. They are interested in constructing a dog park.

Recycling Committee report. F. Esposito, Chair. 7/12/12 – meeting with condo super, Twp. Recycling coordinator, MUA representatives, regarding new containers that MUA is recommending to be used at Heritage Greene for single stream recycling. These containers are specific to certain truck usage and trash removal. A new recycling contract needs to be approved for next year for further discussion on recycling removal to continue with MUA. Tote bags were being considered for the condo residents to use to carry their recycling to the recycling sheds, but due to the high cost of the tote bag, this option will no longer be considered.

Website. F. Esposito – Continue updating website. Update current open space property if not already listed.

## DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- Formally approve the letter already sent to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile's request to violate a conservation easement. S. Carroll motion to approve letter and L. Caprioglio 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.
- Formally approve the letter already sent to the PRC supporting their purchase of 4 parcels in Chatham Township. Passaic River Coalition is applying for a grant from the Morris County Open Space Preservation Trust Fund to buy 4 properties in Chatham Township along the river. The parcels are near others along the river preserved by the PRC. S. Carroll motion to approve letter and L. Caprioglio 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11, 10-8-11, 10-24-11, 11-14-11, 2-1-12, 2-22-12. Subcommittee will do most of the updating with volunteers. All welcome to participate. The current draft is on the Township website. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, M. Palmer, D. Stillinger.
- Safe Routes to School – see updated under Township Committee. K. Abbott.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- Green Village Pond Conservation Area on Township property on Green Village Road. Cleanup and construction of a nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.
- Consider subscribing to the DEP's news service. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel>

#### RECENT LETTERS SENT

- July 2012. Letter to Passaic River Coalition supporting their proposed purchase of 4 parcels along the river. Letter to Township Committee urging denial of T-Mobile request to violate a conservation easement.
- June 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment urging protection of wetlands on Block 102.11, Lot 10.01. Memo to NJDEP urging protection of wetlands on Block 69, Lot 15.

#### EVENTS

- September 15-16, 2012, Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The DEP's WILD Outdoor Expo. This third annual Expo, to be held at the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township, will offer classes, lessons, demonstrations and exhibits on a host of outdoor activities. [www.wildoutdoorexpo.com](http://www.wildoutdoorexpo.com). Free.
- October 19, 2012, Friday. Passaic River Symposium V, "Today's Status, Tomorrow's Perspective", University Hall Conference Center, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. <http://www.montclair.edu/csam/passaic-river-institute/conferences-symposiums/>. They will give CTEC a discount on the registration - we pay \$57.50.
- October 20, 2012, Saturday, ANJEC Environmental Congress. "The Clean Water Act at 40 - Keeping the Promise". 9am - 3:30pm, Middlesex County College, Edison. Governor Jim Florio, Keynote Speaker, NJDEP Commissioner, Bob Martin (invited) Featured Speaker. Usually about \$65 for ANJEC members, which we are.
- November 2, Friday. 25th Annual Recycling Awards Dinner, "Food for Thought: the Past, the Present, and the Future of Recycling. Hanover Manor, East Hanover, NJ.

#### MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:35 PM

Carolyn Scannelli  
Minutes Secretary